

By Maricopa County Supervisor, Fulton Brock, District 1

*The national Keep America Beautiful Great American Clean Up campaign runs for three months: March, April and May*

The time has come for our community to get serious about cleaning up the litter throughout Maricopa County. For many years, our office has encouraged various clean-up efforts and we invite you to participate by volunteering and by taking advantage of waste disposal opportunities wherever you live.

Individuals who desire a cleaner, litter-free environment can help by partnering with municipal governments, community groups and the private sector. Recently, our office has been able to help coordinate several successful clean-up efforts with tremendous results.

To start off the year, in January, we sponsored the fourth annual hazardous waste disposal project in Sun Lakes. We partnered with Intel, which provided volunteers led by Dave Olney. In Sun Lakes itself, our partner was led by Jim Graham, Executive Director of Sun Lakes HOA 1, who arranged logistics. We salute our own Maricopa County Solid Waste Department, which provided the heavy equipment and personnel. Residents lined up their cars and simply drove through to a drop-off area to dispose of hazardous waste including paint, pesticides, batteries and tires. This year's clean-up in Sun Lakes yielded over 25,000 pounds of hazardous waste for safe disposal.

In early February, we held the eighth annual San Tan Mountain Regional Park area clean-up. This is another multi-jurisdictional effort that benefits our metropolitan community. Our partners were the San Tan PRIDE organization led by Alden Rosbrook and Ed Guerra and the San Tan Friends led by Regina Whitman, along with Supervisor Sandie Smith of Pinal County and the Town of Queen Creek. Over 350 volunteers picked up litter for miles surrounding the San Tan Regional Park area. Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn showed his support and helped in the effort.

Here's the results: At the San Tan waste disposal site, we picked up 55 tons of metal, 200 refrigerators and over 2,000 tires. Also, 250 gallons of motor oil, 200 gallons of paint and 175 car batteries were collected and properly disposed. 6,500 pounds of computer and electrical equipment were recycled, as well. All in all, 795 truckloads emptied 675 tons of litter and waste into a designated landfill.

Anyone is welcome to join us April 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM for our fifth annual clean-up of our community area between Tempe, Scottsdale and Phoenix. For this project, we will partner with Phoenix Clean and Beautiful, Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman, the City of Tempe and the North Tempe Neighborhood Association. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the chain gang joins us as well. Law enforcement in this area is a crucial component of the clean-up. In addition to clearing trash, we have posted a Maricopa County phone number to call to report illegal dumping or to request pick-up of large trash items: (602) 506-DUMP.

We are committed to continuing all these annual clean-ups, but their success depends on you. Eradicating litter is a goal we can accomplish with proper education and community partnerships. As we work together and encourage others to help, we can keep our county litter-free. In so doing, everyone benefits.

